AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An inkjet printer provided with a dispensing device for dispensing ink pellets of substantially identical shape, said dispensing device comprising:

- a duct for transporting the ink pellets from an upstream location to a downstream ink pellet separating unit,
- first boundary means causing the ink pellets to form as a single layer in the duct, said layer having a dimension defined by a plurality of ink pellets extending in at least two directions and being disposed at a small angle relative to the horizontal plane, and
- second boundary means causing the ink pellets to form in a single row in the direction of flow in the duct directly preceding the separating unit, said row having a length such that it extends over at least two ink pellets.

2. (Original) The inkjet printer according to claim 1, wherein the angle is less than or equal to 20°.

3. (Original) The inkjet printer according to claim 1, wherein the angle is less than or equal to 12°.

4. (Original) The inkjet printer according to claim 1, wherein the row extends over at least five ink pellets.

5. (Currently Amended) The inkjet printer according to claim 1, wherein the first boundary means ~~cause~~ causes the single layer to gradually ~~becomes~~ become narrower in the direction of flow.

6. (Original) The inkjet printer according to claim 5, wherein the layer has a wedge-shaped configuration.

7. (Original) The inkjet printer according to claim 1, wherein the duct has a convex bulge directed towards the said layer at the place where the layer, in the transverse direction of flow, extends over two ink pellets.

8. (Original) The inkjet printer according to claim 1, wherein a holder, suitable for holding a three-dimensional volume of ink pellets, is disposed above and communicates with the upstream portion of the transporting duct.

9. (Original) The inkjet printer according to claim 8, wherein both the duct and the holder have a base and the base of the holder merges into the base of the duct, wherein an opening in the form of a gap is provided in a wall of the holder at the location of transition from the holder to the duct, the height of the gap being slightly larger than the diameter of the ink pellets.

10. (Original) The inkjet printer according to claim 1, wherein the duct has a base and two side walls, said base containing one or more steps.

11. (Original) The inkjet printer according to claim 10, wherein the steps form an angle other than 90° with the direction of flow in the duct.

12. (Original) The inkjet printer according to claim 1, wherein the duct has a base and two side walls, and the base of the duct is movable with respect to the side walls.

13. (Original) The inkjet printer according to claim 12, wherein the base of the duct hinges with respect to the side walls.

14. (Original) The inkjet printer according to claim 13, wherein the hinge point is situated in the upstream location.

15. (Currently Amended) A dispensing device for dispensing ink pellets of substantially identical shape which comprises:

- a duct for transporting the ink pellets from an upstream location to a downstream ink pellet separating unit,

- first boundary means causing the ink pellets to form as a single layer in the duct, said layer having a dimension defined by a plurality of ink pellets extending in at least two directions and being disposed at a small angle relative to the horizontal plane, and

- second boundary means causing the ink pellets to form in a single row in the direction of flow in the duct directly preceding the separating unit, said row having a length such that it extends over at least two ink pellets.